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MARY SUTHERLAND:

POWER AND PRINCIPLE.

BY EMMA D. N. SOUTHWORTH.

CHAP. IX.—Continued.

When breakfast was over, Colonel Ashley invited Mr. Sutherland to accompany him to his study, where he began to unfold his plan for the education of his boys. After hearing him through, he was greatly struck by the man's energy and new ducis, and was requested to defer the commencement until Monday, and to use the intervening time to become acquainted with his house and pupils.

The interview was brief. The two gentlemen descended to the stairs. Colonel Ashley told Mr. Sutherland that he would find the ladies in the parlor, and then excusing himself, bade him good morning, and entered the carriage which was waiting to take him home.

Mark opened the door, and advanced into the room, and before he could retreat saw and heard the fragment of an earnest interview between the master and his daughter. Mrs. Vivian sat up, with a look of surprise and alarm on her face, her eyes wide open and her hands clasped together. Her fingers were cold, and drooping, and sparkling with tears dropped, like morning dew upon a fresh flower. She was nimbly and nervously stitching away at a piece of embroidery.

Rosalie sat on a cushion before her, with her hands and her needle-work fallen idly on her lap, and pale hair fallen back from her pale forehead, broad and earnest eyes, that were fixed upon her mother's. She was asking in broken accents, "Oh, mamma! can I be possible!"

"Not only possible, but true, Rose," replied the lady, dashingly turning her eyes away.

"Oh, how I longed for such a shock! prepare him for it, mamma!"

"I cannot; how could I? Hur—here he is," she said, perceiving Mark. And in an instant, as Col. Ashley was changing his coat, she sprang from her chair like an April sun from a cloud, or a blooming rose scattering its dew in the breeze, looked up, and said, "Come in, Mark; draw that easy-chair up here to me, and sit down, for I know by experience that men are gay at the hottest moments."

Mr. Sutherland took the indicated seat. Miss Vivian, started from her lowly position, resumed her place upon the sofa, drawing the foot cushion under her feet, and bringing her red-work to her.

"It is really surprising that we should all meet in such a desolate and unattractive neighborhood as Allegheny county," said Mr. Vivian.

"I certainly had not anticipated such pleasure. I did not know that you were related to Colonel Ashley, or to any one else in this part of the country."

"Nor," said Col. Ashley, Rosalie's great-uncle, mother's uncle, Colonel Ashley's last remaining single daughter was married last year, and Rosalie was invited to her abode in the house. Physicians recommended the bright air and delicious repasts for my delicate girl, and therefore Rosalie has been living here for the last eighteen months—ever since we left Cashiers, in fact. Last winter, I think, was rather too cold for her on the mountain, and I am afraid, though she has very little inaptitude for delicate girls, and he would not dare to imagine that he had tried you to death till you had drawn the life out of your heart."

Rosalie stole a glance at his clear, bright blue eye, and round, fresh, ruddy cheek, looking still brighter and fresher under the glossy, crimsoning hair and a smile lighted up his countenance.

"Ahh! you may laugh! You have the hardiest, the most unimpassable heart I ever saw in my life! But good and strong as my constitution is, it will not stand—it will indeed, Rosalie—if you keep this up much longer. And wish it would break down! So do so! Then we shall be happy for you."

"Oh, Robert! I feel a very sincere esteem and friendship for you. Surely, you cannot doubt that?"

"Oh yes, you are good to me to a certain degree. Your heart is like a peach!"

"You are superficial and cold and impulsive, but the core of it is hard and rough—and rough! Oh, Rosalie, can't you try to like me a little?"

"I like you very much, without trying!"

"You know what I mean, you maturing girl! Can't you—can't you love me well enough to give my heart to me? Speak! Answer! Tell me, Rose!"

"Oh, Robert, how many times have I told you—how many times have I told you—I—but I won't take no for an answer! No, indeed won't! All my affections and hopes are freighted in you, and I will not resign you; I will not, Rose! I will not give up in spirit, in body, or in mind, or in soul; I will not give up—no! I can't impossible—any one longing as I do, should not win love in return. It does seem to me if it would be unjust in Heaven to let you go."

He spoke with impatient, passionate vehemence and earnestness.

Rosalie watched and heard him with wonder and a sorrowing interest. She grew pale.

Mr. Sutherland, with a slightly pleased expression, a broad-shouldered, deep-chested—with regular features—reddy ruddy complexion; merry, blue eyes—and lips whose smile was full of the pure humor and benevolence of a fine, comely heart.

"You mustn't take her only to mother?"

"I will take her only to mother?"

"I am shan't hear her with any more nonsense! I will go up with you when you know Mr. Bouldin's blithe young son, and will tell all his regular white tooth smile, and was stammering out blundering depreciation, when, to his great relief, Rosalie appeared, attired for the ball. The young man, Mr. Vivian, removed Rosalie to see that she was well, fended from the cold, and finally seated in her in charge of her escort, who bowed and took her.

He has been paying court to Rose ever since she has been here. He is a young man of independent fortune, irreproachable character, fair complexion, and a frank, open disposition, and he has loved Rose more now. Yet, with all, he is not worthy of her; he wants polish—the polish that nothing but intercourse with refined society can give him. He came to see her last winter, when she was a mere girl, and he would not dare to imagine that he had tried you to death till you had drawn the life out of your heart."

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